(c) The process of consultation with the States concerned is on.

Formulation of Action Programme for deep sea mining

1127. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any time bound action programme to undertake deep sea mining by the year 2005;

(b) the country from which Government propose to acquire know-how for deep sea mining ranging from 4500 to 6000 metres and develop the technology to extract metals from the Nodules; and

(c) the details thereof and the foreign exchange involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) A time bound action programme has been formulated for undertaking deep seabed mining of polymetallic nodules by the year 2008-2009 AD.

(b) and (c) At present, it is not proposed to acquire know-how from any country for deep seabed mining of polymetallic nodules or for the technology of extraction of metals from the nodules.

Pak Firing in Siachen and Poonch Areas

1128. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been indiscriminate firing by Pak troops in Siachen and Poonch areas during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged by Government to stop the indiscriminating firing by Pakistan.

(d) the number of Indian military personnel injured and killed in this firing; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) There have been cases of indiscriminate firming by Pak troops in the Poonch areas during the last one year. Such firing by Pak troops in this area have been a feature for many years. In the Siachen area, there have been cases of sporadic firing by Pak troops.

(c) Such incidents are taken up in flag meetings of the Army at the Sub-Sector or Sector Commanders' level.

Three rounds of talks have been held between the Defence Secretaries of the two countries for a solution of the Siachen issue.

(d) There have been a few casualties as a result of the firing incidents. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

(e) Our troops maintain constant vigil and are effectively deployed to meet any contingency on the borders.

Crash of MIG-21 in Jammu and Kashmir

1129. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an IAF Mig-21 aircraft crashed in May, 1988 at Laliher Village in the Kakopora area of Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what is the number of people who died in the crash; and